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"The ousel-cock, so black of hue,
With orange-tawny bill,
The throstle with his note so true,
The wren with little quill."—*Shakespeare.*

"Right so (quoth she) as the milk white swan
Against his death beginneth for to sing,
Right so to you I make my complaining."
Chaucer.

"I heard (alas! 'twas only in a dream)
Strains—which, as sage Antiquity believed,
By waking ears have sometimes been received
Wafted adown the wind from lake or stream;
A most melodious requiem, a supreme
And perfect harmony of notes, achieved
By a fair Swan on drowsy billows heaved,
O'er which her pinions shed a silver gleam.
For is she not the votary of Apollo?
And knows she not, singing as he inspires,
That bliss awaits her which the ungenial Hollow*
Of the dull earth partakes not, nor desires?
Mount, tuneful Bird, and join the immortal quires!
She soared—and I awoke, struggling in vain to follow."
Wordsworth.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. It frequently occurs, that letters and papers respecting concerts which have taken place early in the month, do not reach us till the day of publication.

"Jubal" and "An Amateur."—If these correspondents will forward their addresses, they will receive a private communication.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

AYLESBURY.—A concert was given at the Castle Street Lecture-room, on the 16th of December, by Mr. Radway. The talent engaged upon the occasion was undeniable, and amongst the performers were Mr. E. Woodman, cornet-apiston, Mr. H. Tole, violin, and Mr. F. M. Brown, piano. Mr. Radway, Mr. Glidewell, and Mr. Martin completed the band.

BARNARD CASTLE.—On Friday, the 11th of December, the Choral Society of this town performed the *Messiah*, in the National School-room, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The overture and accompaniments were played with great precision, and the chorus had evidently been well trained. The solo singers were Miss Newbound, Miss Witham, Mr. Raper, and Mr. Brandon. The band was led by Mr. Ainsworth, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and the baton was wielded by Mr. Bedsmore, of Lichfield.

BERMONDSEY.—A singing class, in connexion with the new Institute, has been opened at the Boys' School-room, Star Corner, under the superintendence of Mr. T. S. Williams, the organist of St. Paul's Church, Nelson-street. The class already numbers about 120 members.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday, December 22nd, the Birmingham Amateur Harmonic Association gave an "open rehearsal" of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, in the concert-room at Dee's Royal Hotel. About 400 friends of the members were present. The whole of the solos and concerted music was given by members of the association. Conductor, Mr. A. J. Sutton.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society had their annual concert on the 26th of December; when the *Messiah* was performed by the members, assisted by Miss Witham, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Bickley, Mr. Glydon, and Mr. Briggs. Leader, Mr. Hayward; organist, Mr. Stimpson; chorus-master and conductor, Mr. W. C. Stockley. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers.

BROSELEY.—On Wednesday, the 25th of November, a miscellaneous concert was given at the Town Hall, by Mr. C. Raden, assisted by Miss Joesbury, Mr. Mackain, and the Coalbrookdale Musical Class. The attendance was numerous, and the performance elicited much applause.

CAMELFORD.—The annual concert of the Camelford Glee Club was given on the 11th ult., in the Town Hall. The members were assisted by two friends of the Rector—Miss F. Tucker, of London, and Mr. Hawworth, of Exeter; and also by Messrs. Pearce and Hamlin, of Launceston. The glees were sung with much spirit and accuracy.

CANTERBURY.—At the first performance of the Musical Union, Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus*, was given in a very efficient style. The solo performers were Mrs. Pillow, Mr. Plant, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Farrow, and Master Irons. The band was led by Mr. Lyon; and Mr. Youlden accompanied on the harmonium. The performance was conducted by Mr. Longhurst, who has devoted much time to the training of the chorus.

CAERMARTHEN.—The first concert of the season given by the Caermarthen Musical Society, took place on the 1st of December, at the Assembly Rooms. The music was both vocal and instrumental, including a solo on the violin, played remarkably well by the conductor, Herr Hauptmann, and a trio of Mozart's, performed with great precision by Mrs. Howell, Herr Hauptmann, and Mr. J. W. Jones. The choruses from *William Tell* and *Preciosa*, by the choir of St. Peter's, with orchestral accompaniments, deserved great praise.

CECILIAN SOCIETY, ALBION HALL.—Handel's *Messiah* was performed by the society, on the 11th of December, for the benefit of the Hoxton Ragged Schools. The principal vocalists on the occasion were Miss Anne Cox, Miss Boden, Mr. J. W. Morgan (of Rochester Cathedral), and Mr. Harper. The room was well attended, and the performance gave great satisfaction. Conductor, Mr. Boardman; organist, Mr. Baines; trumpet, Mr. Ward.

CHARD HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The tenth monthly rehearsal of this society, under the conductorship of Mr. Tozer, was held at the Royal Assembly Rooms, on the 18th of Dec. The selection was of a secular character, and taken chiefly from Novello's *Glee-Hive* and *Musical Times*. The music generally was rendered in a most creditable manner.

CHEDDAR (Somerset).—The Cheddar Singing Class gave their third concert on Tuesday, December 8th, in the National School-room. The programme comprised a selection of glees, trios, and part-songs, which were very efficiently performed. Mr. D. Jefferies conducted.

CHEPSTOW.—A concert of sacred music, in aid of the Indian Fund, took place at the Beaufort Arms Assembly Room, on Tuesday, December 1st, and gave great satis-

* See the Phædon of Plato, by which this sonnet was suggested.

BRIEF CHRONICLE—continued from page 170.

faction. The programme contained a selection from the works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, &c. The amateurs of Chepstow very creditably sustained the choral parts, the solo parts being left to Miss Phelps (of Gloucester), Mr. Stevens (of Bath), and Mr. Haines (of Lydney). Mr. R. W. Drew (organist of St. Mary's Church) alternately presided at the piano and harmonium with his usual ability.

CHESTER.—The first concert given by the Harmonic Society proved highly successful. The *Messiah* was the oratorio performed, and the principal solos were allotted to Miss Hilles and Miss C. Hiles, of Liverpool, and to Messrs. Kibble, Wait, and Walker, of the Chester Cathedral Choir. T. Gunton, Esq., presided at the organ, and Mr. Jowens acted as chorus-master. The society, which was only formed twelve months ago, now numbers above one hundred members.

CLIFTON.—An interesting lecture on Music was given at this town, in the early part of the last month, by Miss Rankin. The musical illustrations were sung by a small party of chorallists, about twenty in number, principally members of the Clifton Vocal Association. The lecture was ably delivered, and well calculated to improve the love of the divine art.

DEWSBURY.—On the 8th December, a concert was given in connexion with the Mechanics' Institute, by Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, from the Wilberforce Institution for the Blind at York; and the performance gave general satisfaction.

ECCLESHALL.—A private concert was given on the 10th of December, by the pupils of Eagle House School, under the superintendence of Mr. A. Evans, their musical teacher. The proficiency of the scholars was very creditable to themselves and their instructor.

ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—This society held its first meeting for the season in St. Martin's Hall, on the 15th of Dec., under the presidency and direction of the Rev. T. Helmore. The object of the society, as stated by the chairman, is to clear the choirs of all the "services" bequeathed to us by the native church writers of the last century, and to go back to the primitive forms and severe style of Palestrina and his immediate successors. The selection of music performed upon the occasion consisted of motets, anthems, carols, chants, &c., all of them of the latter period of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century. The choir numbered between thirty and forty voices, and seemed to have been well trained. The music generally was executed with precision.

GREENWICH.—The organ of Christ Church, in this parish, having been rebuilt by Messrs. Hill and Son, and four new stops added, was opened on Sunday, November 29th, by Mr. Somerford, the organist. Cathedral service was performed; the anthem in the morning being, "In Jewry is God known," and in the evening, "O Lord, our Governor." Mr. Somerford performed several voluntaries with great taste and judgment.

HASTINGS.—The annual concert for the benefit of the organist and choir of All Saints' Church will take place at the Girls' National School-room on the 5th of January. There will be a selection of sacred music, under the conductorship of Mr. Moore. Mr. Fuggle will be the leader, and Mr. Giles will accompany on the pianoforte and harmonium.

HOLMFIRTH.—The Holmfirth Choral Society gave their fourth quarterly concert in the Town Hall, on the 3rd ult., when the attendance was, as usual, very numerous. The oratorio chosen was *Judas Maccabæus*. The solos were given by Miss Crosland, and by the more advanced singers of the society, in a very creditable manner. The chorus was very efficient, and showed a marked improvement upon any of their previous efforts. Mr. Perkin was the conductor, and Mr. T. Etchells the leader.

LINCOLN.—The committee of the Lincoln Choral Society gave their first concert for the season in the Corn Exchange, on the 11th ult., to a large audience. The programme consisted of selections from the *Messiah*. The solo parts were very ably executed by Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Mason, Mr. Barraclough, and Mr. Lambert.

LOUTH.—A fine toned organ, lately erected in the chancel of St. Nicholas' Church, was opened on the 17th ult., with full cathedral morning and evening service. Mr. Smart (nephew of Sir George Smart) presided at the organ,—the vocal parts being sustained by Mr. Mason, Mr. Barraclough, Mr. Turton, Mr. Brooke, and four boys from the Cathedral Choir, Lincoln.

MAGDALEN HALL.—An exercise for the degree of Doctor of Music was performed on the 16th of Dec., in the Music School of this College, under the direction of Mr. G. Dixon, Mus. Bac., organist of Retford, Nottinghamshire. The music was clever, and well written. The words were taken from Pope's eclogue, the *Messiah*. The Vice-Chancellor presided, Dr. Elvey, the choragus, occupying the place of the professor. The composer was cordially greeted at the close of the performance.

MARKET DRAYTON.—Mr. Arthur A. Evans's singing classes, which he has commenced in this town, are likely to prove successful. He is an enterprising man, and deserves to be appreciated—especially as singing has been at such a very low ebb in this town for some time.

MELBOURNE.—At the fourth subscription concert for the season, given by the Philharmonic Society of Melbourne, Victoria, on the 1st of September, 1857, there were about 2000 persons present. The first part of the programme consisted of Haydn's Third Mass, preceded by the overture to *Judas Maccabæus*; the second part consisted of a miscellaneous selection, and included two novelties, viz., "Unto Thee, O Lord," from Costa's *Eli*, and a well-written vocal quartett, "And I saw that great city," composed expressly for this concert by Mr. G. O. Rutter. Both were encored.

NEWPORT.—A concert was given at this town by Mr. Groves, on the 8th of Dec., which was much prized by the inhabitants, who seldom have the good fortune of hearing any really first-class music, such as was afforded them upon the present occasion. The performers were Miss Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Buckland, Mr. H. Blagrove, and Mr. R. Blagrove.

PONTYPOOL.—Mr. H. J. Groves gave a concert at the Town Hall, on the 9th ult., under distinguished patronage. The music performed was the *Creation*, and the following artistes were engaged for the occasion:—Miss Banks, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Buckland, Mr. Blagrove, Mr. R. Blagrove, and Mr. Aylward. The band was composed partly of amateurs and partly of professional players, and the choruses were sung by the members of the Sacred Harmonic Society. Mr. Groves conducted. The oratorio was admirably performed throughout, and the audience repeatedly testified their approbation.

PORTSEA.—The Portsmouth Musical Association gave their first concert for the season on the 15th ult. The principal vocalist was Miss Annie Strong, of the Philharmonic concerts, Brighton.

PRESCOT.—A miscellaneous concert was given on the 16th of December, at the Town Hall, by the Prescott Harmonic Society. The programme consisted of selections from the *Messiah* and the *Creation*, with a number of songs, glees, and madrigals. The principal vocalists were Miss Hiles, Mr. W. Wood, Signor de Braunhelder; Mr. Burrows, conductor; and Mr. Jukes, accompanist.

REUNION DES ARTS.—This society gave their concluding concert for the present season, at 76, Hawley Street, on the 16th of December. The vocalists on this occasion were Madame Weiss, Mrs. Paget, M. Schmelzer, Mr. Wallworth, Mr. T. A. Wallworth, and Mr. Paget. Instrumentalists:—Miss Annie Elliott, Herren Goffie, Lehmeier, and Kettemus, and M. Vieuxtemps. Conductor, Herr Wilhelm Ganz.

LEEK.—The United Choral Society, in connection with the Philharmonic, gave their first concert (sacred and secular) on the 21st ult., in the large room of the West-street School. The band and chorus number about 50 performers. The proceeds (upwards of £20) were devoted to the Town Relief Fund. About 1000 persons were present.

LONDON.—Mr. Lambert, principal basso at York Cathedral, has been appointed in the choir at Lincoln's Inn.

LYNN MUSICAL UNION.—This society has already given two of its four annual concerts. At the first, a selection from the rarely performed oratorio, *Saul*, was presented to the subscribers; and the *Creation* formed the staple of the second. On both occasions, Miss Whyte sustained the principal soprano part.

MARYPORT.—A charity concert was given in the Music Hall on the 22nd ult., by amateur musicians. The performance consisted of songs, glees, and instrumental pieces, which were very nicely executed. The proceeds (which exceeded £20) will be laid out in comforts for the poor.

PRESTON.—**CHEAP CONCERTS.**—The fourth of the series of cheap concerts, under the patronage of the Mayor, J. Humber, Esq., took place at the theatre on the 21st of December; for which Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. R. Riley, and Mr. Lambert were engaged. Pianist, Mr. C. J. Yates.

ROCHFORD (Essex).—The Choral Society held a tea meeting in the Independent Chapel, on the 25th of Nov., which was numerously attended. The Rev. Thomas Hayward took the chair. Several addresses were given, and anthems sung. The object of the meeting was to increase the members of the society, and to devise some further means to improve the congregational singing. A musical instruction class has been formed in this town, under the direction of Mr. Hemmann, in connection with the Literary Institution.

STROOD, ROCHESTER.—On Christmas Eve, a number of the parishioners attended the National School-room, at the invitation of the Vicar, to hear the performance of some Christmas carols by the upper classes of the school, assisted by the church choir. Several of these were sung in the open air by torch-light; and one of the number, "Good King Wenceslas," given dramatically, had a pleasing effect, and was well received. Miss Isabel Manclark, of Rochester, kindly presided at the harmonium during the evening.

THAME (Oxon.)—**CHORAL SOCIETY.**—The first concert of this recently formed society took place in the Grammar School (by the permission of the Rev. Dr. Fookes) on the 10th of December. Selections from the *Creation*, together with the solo, "He was despised," and the "Hallelujah Chorus," from the *Messiah*, the march and chorus from *Judas Maccabæus*, the Old Hundredth, and the National Anthem, constituted the programme. The society was only established during the past summer; but it has wonderfully progressed in the time, under the guidance of M. Leclerc, whose ability as a conductor was manifest by the truly creditable performance on that evening.

THE PESTALOZZIAN CHORAL SOCIETY gave a musical entertainment at Sussex Hall, Leadenhall Street, on the 14th of December. The music consisted of selections from Schiller's *Lay of the Bell*, by Romberg, and the *Power of Song*, also by Romberg. There were, in addition to these selections, some few compositions of Mozart, Mendelssohn, and others. The choir was composed of the advanced class, and the solos were sung by members of the choir. The performance was most creditable to the society, and gave universal satisfaction. Mr. Henry de Laspee was the director, and Herr Heerklotz presided at the pianoforte.

THE WAREHOUSEMEN'S VOCAL UNION.—This society gave their first concert on the 11th instant, at the Literary Institution, 165, Aldersgate Street. The programme, which was well selected, consisted of favourite part-songs, relieved at intervals by solos, both vocal and instrumental, all of which were very well rendered. The whole performance was under the management of Mr. J. E. Walker, conductor of the society.

WEST LONDON SACRED CHORAL SOCIETY.—The *Messiah* was performed on Thursday, the 3rd, under the direction of Mr. H. C. Freeman, at the Literary and Scientific Institution, Edwards Street, Portman Square, in aid of the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund. There was a numerous and respectable audience, although the attendance, in consequence of the very unfavourable state of the weather, was not so large as was anticipated. The principal singers were Mrs. John Roe, Mrs. Dixon, Mr. W. Congreve, and Mr. Crome, who acquitted themselves extremely well—obtaining frequent applause. The band and chorus (the whole numbering 100 performers) executed their parts to admiration, affording an evidence that great care and attention had been bestowed upon the training of the members.

WINDSOR.—The Windsor and Eton Royal Glee and Madrigal Society, under the patronage of Her Majesty, the Prince Consort, and the Duchess of Kent, gave their third concert of the season on the 21st ult., in the Town Hall. The members were assisted by several professional singers. Hon. conductor, Dr. Elvey. Mr. Dyson, secretary. The same society gave a concert at the Town Hall in Oxford on the 2nd, when there was a large musical audience. The music was sung on both occasions in excellent style.

WISBECH.—On the evening of the 3rd December, the members of the singing class in connection with the Mechanics' Institution gave an entertainment in the Public Hall, when a choice selection of four-part songs, glees, and choruses was performed, under the able conductorship of Mr. T. G. Beatley. At the conclusion, a vote of thanks to the conductor and his class was proposed by W. P. Bays, Esq., and warmly accorded.

YORK.—**CHORAL SOCIETY.**—The second concert of the season took place in the Festival Concert-room, on the 23rd of Dec., under the patronage of the Archbishop of York and Lord Feversham; when was performed the *Messiah*, with Mozart's additional accompaniments, for which occasion the following artistes were engaged:—Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Newboud, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Hinchcliffe, and Mr. Lambert. Leader, Mr. C. N. Allen; and conductor, Mr. Hopkinson.

YORK.—**PEOPLE'S CONCERTS.**—Another of these popular concerts took place in the Festival Concert-room, on Tuesday evening, December 1st, when there was a numerous audience. The principal vocalists were Miss Maria Wilson (of Hull), Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Holmes, Hudson, Wilson, and Lambert. Mr. J. W. Sykes played two solos on the violin in a masterly style. Mr. Shaw presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. R. Hunt conducted. The overtures and accompaniments were well rendered by the band, and the concert passed off with much éclat.

HYMNAL NOTED.—The HARMONIES to the SECOND PART will be published in a few days.
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